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IMMEDIATE

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TOT: 200642Z FEB 86

~~SECRET NOFORN NOCONTRACT~~
BRIEF 200642Z
TO: ROUTINE MEA BRIEF.

(NOFORN IN SLANTS)

WNINTEL.

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST/AFRICA BRIEF FOR 20 FEBRUARY 1986.

FROM: DDI/O/CPAS

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Approved for Release
Date JUN 1999

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1 ISRAEL-LEBANON: FATE OF CAPTIVES

//PRIME MINISTER PERES WILL COME UNDER INCREASING DOMESTIC PRESSURE TO RETALIATE AGAINST THE HIZBALLAH IF CONFIRMATION IS RECEIVED THAT ONE OF THE TWO ISRAELIS CAPTURED IN AN AMBUSH ON MONDAY IN SOUTHERN LEBANON HAS BEEN EXECUTED BY THE RADICAL SHIA GROUP.//

//ACCORDING TO BEIRUT PRESS REPORTS, A CALLER CLAIMING TO REPRESENT THE HIZBALLAH SAID ONE OF THE ISRAELIS HAD BEEN EXECUTED YESTERDAY BECAUSE THE ISRAELIS HAD FAILED TO HEED DEMANDS TO CEASE MILITARY OPERATIONS NORTH OF THE ISRAELI SECURITY ZONE AND WITHDRAW. THE ORGANIZATION ALSO ANNOUNCED THE EXECUTION OF ONE OF ITS LEBANESE JEWISH HOSTAGES EARLIER THIS WEEK.//

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE "ISLAMIC RESISTANCE," A COVERNAME USED BY HIZBALLAH ELEMENTS OPERATING IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, CLAIMED ON MONDAY THAT THE ORGANIZATION WAS HOLDING THE ISRAELIS AND WOULD SOON ISSUE DEMANDS.//

//THE ISRAELIS ARE CONTINUING TO SEARCH THE AREA DIRECTLY TO THE NORTH OF THEIR SECURITY ZONE IN THE BELIEF THAT THE CAPTIVES ARE BEING HELD THERE. SO FAR THE ISRAELI OPERATION REPORTEDLY HAS NETTED TWO GUERRILLAS INVOLVED IN THE AMBUSH OF A CONVOY OF ISRAELI SOLDIERS AND TROOPS OF THE ARMY OF SOUTH LEBANON. THE ISRAELIS ALSO HAVE INTERROGATED A LARGE NUMBER OF SHIA VILLAGERS IN THE AREA AND DISCOVERED SEVERAL MAJOR WEAPONS CACHES.//

//PERES WILL FACE MOUNTING DOMESTIC PRESSURE TO PUNISH THE HIZBALLAH IF ONE OR BOTH OF THE PRISONERS HAVE BEEN EXECUTED. STRIKING HIZBALLAH TARGETS IN BEIRUT COULD, HOWEVER, ENDANGER HOSTAGES BELONGING TO COUNTRIES FRIENDLY TO ISRAEL. ATTACKING HIZBALLAH BASES IN THE BEKAA VALLEY WOULD RISK A CONFRONTATION WITH THE SYRIANS. PERES MAY THEREFORE CHOOSE TO PUBLICIZE CONTINUING PUNITIVE OPERATIONS NORTH OF THE SECURITY ZONE DESIGNED PRINCIPALLY TO REMIND SHIA VILLAGERS OF THE COSTS INVOLVED IN TOLERATING OR SUPPORTING ANTI-ISRAELI GUERRILLA ACTIVITY.//

//THE HIZBALLAH PROBABLY MOVED THE TWO ISRAELIS TO WEST BEIRUT, AND IT MAY HAVE INTENDED TO EXCHANGE THEM FOR SHIA PRISONERS HELD BY THE ISRAELIS AND THE ARMY OF SOUTH LEBANON AT THE AL KHIYAM PRISON. THE ORGANIZATION MAY HAVE DECIDED, ON THE OTHER HAND, TO EXECUTE AT LEAST ONE OF THE CAPTIVES, ALONG WITH ONE OF THE LEBANESE JEWS, IN THE HOPE OF PROVOKING THE ISRAELIS INTO PUNITIVE OPERATIONS THAT WOULD FURTHER DESTABILIZE THE AREA AND AID THE HIZBALLAH IN ITS COMPETITION WITH THE AMAL MILITIA FOR CONTROL OF PARTS OF BEIRUT AND

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SOUTHERN LEBANON.//

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2. JORDAN-PLO: HUSSEIN ENDS DIALOGUE WITH ARAFAT

//KING HUSSEIN ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY IN A TOUGHLY WORDED THREE-HOUR SPEECH THAT HE HAS ENDED HIS DIALOGUE WITH PLO CHAIRMAN ARAFAT BUT WILL NOT FORMALLY ABROGATE THE ACCORD THEY SIGNED A YEAR AGO. HUSSEIN SAID THAT JORDAN COULD NO LONGER "COORDINATE POLITICALLY" WITH ARAFAT. NEVERTHELESS, HE DID NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT TALKS MIGHT RESUME IF THE PLO ACCEPTED UN RESOLUTION 242.//

//ARAFAT'S FAILURE TO MEET HUSSEIN'S TERMS DURING THEIR LATEST TALKS IN AMMAN APPARENTLY PROMPTED THE KING TO CARRY OUT EARLIER THREATS TO BREAK WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PLO.

HUSSEIN IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE HIS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASSAD.//

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4. USSR - IVORY COAST: RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

//THE USSR AND IVORY COAST ARE TO ANNOUNCE RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS TODAY

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[REDACTED] b3
[REDACTED] BOTH COUNTRIES PLAN TO REOPEN EMBASSIES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET, SUSPICIOUS OF SOVIET MEDDLING IN LOCAL STUDENT POLITICS. SEVERED TIES IN 1969.// [REDACTED] b3

[REDACTED] //ABIDJAN, WHICH RECENTLY RESUMED RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AND CUBA, IS TRYING TO IMPROVE ITS NONALIGNED CREDENTIALS AND GAIN NEW TRADE OUTLETS. STRONGLY PRO-WESTERN AND RELATIVELY WEALTHY, IVORY COAST IS NOT A LIKELY CANDIDATE FOR SOVIET MILITARY OR ECONOMIC AID, AND HOUPHOUET WILL PROBABLY NOT ALLOW MEANINGFUL GAINS IN SOVIET INFLUENCE. THE SOVIET PRESENCE, HOWEVER, WILL ENABLE MOSCOW TO MONITOR DEVELOPMENTS, BUILD LOCAL CONTACTS, AND PERHAPS INCREASE ITS CHANCES OF AFFECTING EVENTS IN THE POTENTIALLY UNSTABLE POST-HOUPHOUET ERA.// [REDACTED] b3

5. IN BRIEF

MIDDLE EAST

-- //SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASSAD ANNOUNCED HE HAS MET WITH SENIOR FATAH OFFICIAL FARUQ QADDUMI . . . CONFIRMS RUMORS OF HIGH-LEVEL CONTACTS BETWEEN DAMASCUS, PLO . . . STATEMENT SUGGESTS ATTEMPT TO ISOLATE ARAFAT FROM PLO MODERATES.// [REDACTED] b3

TERRORISM

[REDACTED] b1, b3
SOUTH ASIA

-- //PAKISTAN HAS GIVEN DEATH SENTENCE TO TWO MEMBERS OF MINORITY AHMADI SECT FOR KILLING TWO MUSLIMS IN 1984 . . . SECT CONSIDERS ITSELF ISLAMIC BUT DECLARED NON-ISLAMIC BY GOVERNMENT . . . SENTENCES MAY LEAD TO SECTARIAN VIOLENCE.// [REDACTED] b3

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